



First Suburbs Consortium of Southwest Ohio

Meeting Summary

Thursday February 24, 2005

Drake Conference Center
151 West Galbraith Road
Meeting Room D
8:00 AM–9:30 AM

PARTICIPANTS: Tom Moeller, Madeira (vice-chair, presiding officer)
Jack Cameron, Evendale
Chris Anderson, Forest Park
Jeff Wright, Milford
Chuck Kamine, Amberley Village
Frank Davis, Montgomery
David Moore, Greenhills
Tom Todd, Glendale
Chris Gilbert, Springfield Township
Joe Honerlaw, Springfield Township
Dave Savage, Wyoming
Mike Hinnenkamp, Springfield Township
Bob Richardson, KZF Design
Chirstine Hiller, TEC Engineering
Susan Roeschke, TEC Engineering

Ron Miller, RPC
Andy Dobson, RPC
Mark Beechcuk, RPC

- AGENDA ITEMS:**
1. Vote on letter to support grant application for Warder Nursery property in Springfield Township
 2. Vote on resolution endorsing Greater Ohio Policy Agenda
 3. Ohio Municipal League Conference April 12, 2005, Columbus
The Ohio First Suburbs Consortium is planning to have a meeting at this conference and to build our presence in statewide policy discussions affecting older core communities.
 4. Project Workshop: discussion of the following project categories and forming project teams
 - Transportation
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- Financial
 - Inter-governmental collaboration
 - Legislative
 - Neighborhood revitalization

5. Scheduling for project team meetings

DISCUSSION:
(conclusions and
decisions)

Warder Nursery Property

Mike Hinnenkamp presented Springfield Township's proposal for redevelopment of the Warder Nursery property on Winton Road. The site has been vacant for several years and the Township wishes to use it for a park and storm water management/education center. This project would serve a dual purpose of providing an amenity to the immediate and surrounding neighborhood, and fulfilling some of the requirements under EPA's Phase II storm water management program. The Township is asking for \$2 million in federal funds for the planning and design work, and requests that FSC-SW endorse this request with a letter to Senator Mike DeWine. Mike indicated a need for FSC advocacy for state and federal funding since the region does not prioritize projects very well. FSC could play an important role in the future in identifying and prioritizing projects.

There was discussion and some questions regarding how much advocacy for different projects FSC-SW should take on. Tom Moeller suggested that we need to examine different projects on a case-by-case basis instead of creating a standing policy for advocacy. Chuck Kamine suggested that advocacy is an important part of FSC-SW, but we should develop some criteria for the kinds of projects we will consider. Also, information about advocacy requests should get out to the Board with more notice.

After the discussion, the Board unanimously endorsed Springfield Township's request for FSC support for federal funding for redevelopment of the Warder Nursery property. Mike Hinnenkamp provided a draft letter for Gary Blomberg's signature.

Resolution Endorsing Greater Ohio Agenda

A draft resolution endorsing the Greater Ohio Policy Agenda was distributed to members prior to the meeting. The Board has discussed this topic at length at previous meetings, and many jurisdictions individually endorsed the Policy Agenda over the last few months. There was some discussion whether to distribute our endorsement to other organizations and the media. Tom Moeller agreed to prepare a cover letter to accompany the distribution of this recommendation to local jurisdictions.

Motion: to endorse the Greater Ohio Policy Agenda with revisions (per attachment) and to distribute the FSC-SW endorsement to member communities, potential member communities, state senators and representatives from the region, and issue a press release.

Moved: Dave Savage
Seconded: Mike Hinnenkamp
Vote: Approved unanimously

Ohio Municipal League Legislative Luncheon

Andy has been discussing a statewide meeting of the various First Suburbs Consortiums with Kim Gibson and Ken Montlack. At first, the meeting was to be a separate meeting with first suburban legislators in Columbus. However, since Ohio Municipal League is holding their annual legislative meeting on April 12, the First Suburbs groups will meet in conjunction with that conference. The proposed schedule is for first suburbs members to meet mid-morning on April 12, participate in the legislative luncheon event, and then possibly have a follow-up summary meeting before breaking up in mid-afternoon.

With the exception of Springfield Township, all of the FSC-SW member communities are also part of Ohio Municipal League. There is general interest in FSC-SW participating in this event with the other first suburbs groups.

Tom Moeller agreed to prepare a letter for FSC-SW to send to all Ohio representatives regarding this event.

Project Workshop

At their February 14 meeting, the Executive Committee discussed different project possibilities and came up with the following five categories: Transportation, Neighborhood Revitalization, Intergovernmental Cooperation, Financial, and Legislative. Work committees should form to develop projects in each of these categories, and Tom Moeller called for two or three volunteers for each committee.

Chuck Kamine suggested that the “transportation” committee also deal with general infrastructure issues as well as roads. Dave Savage emphasized that the committees should concentrate on projects where First Suburbs have a unique perspective or concern. Concerns with Ohio’s Local Government Fund concerns First Suburbs but also affects every jurisdiction across the state. Therefore, it is less of a unique First Suburb issue than refocusing infrastructure financing on core urban communities. Frank Davis expressed a concern that with five committees that the group may be spreading itself too thinly. Committees should be made up of current FSC-SW members as well as outside experts and interested parties.

The group spent about twenty minutes in a project brainstorming exercise to generate ideas for the committees to consider in drafting annual goals and action plans. Participants wrote their “desired results” or outcomes for each committee on cards and taped them to the wall in different columns for each committee. About two dozen ideas were generated.

Intergovernmental Cooperation (votes received)

1. Consolidation of services (Best Practices) (8)
(Note: ideas 1, 3, 4, and 7 could be combined) (16)
 2. Economic development efforts (6)
 3. partner w/ CLG to develop new intergovernmental cooperation opportunities that are uniquely FSC (5)
 4. more joint service between neighboring jurisdictions (2)
 5. joint negotiations of police, fire service and administration pay contracts (2)
 6. joint economic development (1)
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7. cooperation and joint fire/police service (1)

Legislative (votes received)

1. improve funding for revitalization of historic structures, improve funding if inheritance taxes are eliminated (9)
2. increase awareness/responsiveness of state legislators toward needs of FSC (9)
3. Policy for project endorsement (4)
4. Lobby legislator to enact pro FSC-SW actions (2)
5. lobby for tax reform that benefits land locked jurisdictions (2)emphasize smart growth agenda to state legislators (1)
6. Level playing field for funding (1)
7. coordination with like-minded organizations, PR efforts (0)

Neighborhood Revitalization (votes received)

1. Create programs that allow incentives for private parties to re-invest in rehabilitating the older housing stock (8)
2. Get Hamilton Co. communities more active in Ohio Main Street Program (2 national) and tap into Downtown Ohio/ main street expertise for NBD's (5)
3. Educate members on property maintenance, use of CDBG \$, compile list of resources for public/private partnerships, educate realtors on advantages (5)
4. FSC become involved in decision making of county CDBG (4)
5. housing, business districts, economic development, image/environmental, funding programs, organizational strategies, promotion/events (3)
6. allowing local jurisdictions to have control over section 8 housing in their communities (2)
7. getting tax rebates for fixing up older homes, funding for older parks and infrastructure (2)
8. Identify legislative barriers and powers (1)
9. meet w/ academics, identify neighborhoods, meet w/ funding agencies (1)
10. funding of redevelopment- assistance (1)
11. UED's & TIFF's (0)
12. fighting predatory lending (0)
13. housing re-use demo (per FSC-NE) (0)
14. Authority & power (0)

Transportation/Infrastructure (votes received)

1. meet w/ SORTA, identify needs beyond the corridors (6)
 2. regional transit, stormwater, funding infrastructure (SCIP, LTIP, ODOT, OKI), street lighting (character & function), urban forest/trees, relationships (5)
 3. convince state of the necessity to increase programs ie. SCIP funds (special to FSC) (4)
 4. successfully lobby the legislation so that new policies, regulations and laws are created that require older infrastructure is fixed (funded) first (3)
 5. Lobby OKI & TRAC on how to score projects, lobby EPA/State on funding and regional approaches for projects such as CSO elimination, work w/ Cincinnati and new suburbs on public transportation \$ (2)
 6. healthy environment (1)
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7. outer beltway- awareness of threat to first suburbs (1)
 8. modern traffic signalization across jurisdictions (1)
 9. minivan cross county bus (1)
 10. intergovernmental stormwater control (1)
 11. securing issue 2 funding (1)
 12. stormwater problem with redevelopment (0)
 13. preserve roads, improve infrastructure through the entire FSC (0)
 14. focus future funding move to public funding and maintenance rather than new roads/highways (0)

Financial (votes received)

1. Expand HIP program- low interest loans for fix-up (2)
2. Group buying of equipment (2)
3. How to finance municipal government if inheritance taxes dry up (2)
4. Increase FSC-SW funds and develop criteria expenditures (0)

Committee Membership

Neighborhood Revitalization

- Chris Gilbert (convener)
- Dave Moore
- Frank Davis
- Jeff Wright
- Bob Richardson

Intergovernmental Cooperation

- Mike Hinnenkamp (convener)
- Tom Moeller
- Jack Cameron

Financial

- Chris Anderson (convener)

Legislative

- Chuck Kamine (convener)
- Tom Moeller
- Mike Hinnenkamp
- Dave Savage

Transportation/Infrastructure

- Dave Savage (convener)
- Dave Moore
- Susan Roschke
- Bob Richardson

Each committee will convene an individual meeting at the convenience of the members. The Committees will consider the ideas (from the brainstorming) and refine the desired results that FSC-SW wants from each committee. The committee conveners will present their recommendations for desired results and recommended actions to the FSC at the April Board meeting on April 28th and then refine and implement the action plan to achieve the desired results.

The Board will not have its regular meeting in March, to allow for committees to begin work and to allow that meeting time and place to be used by committees. At least one week prior to any committee meeting, each convener should notify Andy (946-4466 or andy.dobson@hamilton-co.org) regarding committee meeting date, time and place so that RPC can provide notice to, and invite participation by, other interested FSC members.

Meeting Time

Due to difficulty of many members arriving on time for 8:00 a.m. meetings, the Board agreed to schedule all future board meetings from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: April 28, 2005 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at Drake Conference Center
